

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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GENEVA FOR WIPO DEL FIGGINS

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNIDO, OCON, EAID

SUBJ: ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD-
AGENDA ITEM 8(F) INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATIONS IN THE
FIELD OF INDUSTRY

1. DOC/ID/B/179 IS THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ON THE EXPERIENCE ACQUIRED WITH REGARD TO INTERNATIONAL
CONSULTATIONS IN THE FIELD OF INDUSTRY CALLED FOR BY IDB-X.
AFTER SUMMARIZING DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE,
CULMINATING IN THE CONSULTATIONS ON FERTILIZER AND IRON
AND STEEL, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RAISES A NUMBER OF
QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE BOARD AND LAYS OUT A PRO-
POSED PROGRAM OF WORK IN FOLLOWUP OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE FIRST TWO CONSULTATIONS AND LOOKING TO THE ORGANIZA-
TION OF A SERIES OF ADDITIONAL SECTORAL MEETINGS. FOLLOW-
ING PARAS ADDRESS VARIOUS POINTS FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION
IN POSITION PAPER ON THIS ITEM WHICH COULD BE SUBJECT OF
MAJOR ATTENTION BY IDB-XI.

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2. QUESTION OF SUMMARY RECORDS AND NATURE OF REPORTS
TO BE ADOPTED BY CONSULTATION MEETINGS (PARAS 19 AND
20 OF ID/B/179); DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT WHEN PREPARA-
TION, INITIAL GROUP B POSITION AS TO PRESS FOR SUMMARY
RECORDS AS THE EASIEST WAY OF ASSURING A RECORD OF THE
MEETING WHICH WOULD ACCURATELY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF PARTI-
CIPANTS ON THE VARIOUS ISSUES ADDRESSED DURING THE CONSUL-

TATION. WHEN THE SECRETARIAT ARGUED THAT GA RES. 3415 (XXX) STOOD IN THE WAY OF PROVIDING THIS SERVICE, GROUP B DROPPED ITS INSISTENCE. IT THEN TOOK THE LINE THAT THE REPORTS OF MEETINGS SHOULD REFLECT NOT ONLY CONSENSUS VIEWS, BUT ALSO DIFFERING OPINIONS EVEN OF INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS WHERE THESE ATTACHED IMPORTANCE TO HAVING THEIR VIEWS INCORPORATED IN THE FINAL REPORT. IF THERE ARE REASONS MILITATING AGAINST PRESSING FOR SUMMARY RECORDS OF GLOBAL CONSULTATION MEETINGS, WE FEEL THAT U.S. DEL SHOULD CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE NEED FOR REPORTS OF SUCH MEETINGS TO REFLECT ACCURATELY THE VARIOUS VIEWS EXPRESSED ON SIGNIFICANT POINTS ADDRESSED IN THE CONSULTATIONS AND NOT BE CONFINED TO REPRODUCING CONSENSUS VIEWS OR TO "A CONCISE SUMMARY OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS" (PARA 20).

3. LEGAL STATUS OF THE SYSTEM OF CONSULTATIONS AND OF PARTICIPANTS (PARAS 26-27); OUR VIEW IS THAT MORE PRECISE DEFINITION OF LEGAL STATUS OF THE SYSTEM OF CONSULTATIONS IS UNNECESSARY AT THIS STAGE AND THAT AN ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE ONE MAY BE UNWISE. AMBIGUITY ON THIS POINT SHOULD NOT SIGNIFICANTLY HAMPER THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CONSULTATION MEETINGS NOR THE FULL AND FREE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. PRESSURE TO DEFINE THE EXACT LEGAL STATUS OF CONSULTATIONS ARISES IN PART FROM HACINI'S VIEW THAT TO ACHIEVE RESULTS, CONSULTATIONS MUST PRODUCE AGREEMENTS AMONG GOVERNMENTS AND THAT THESE CAN ONLY BE NEGOTIATED IN INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS.) OUR LINE SHOULD BE THAT IT IS TOO EARLY FULLY TO EVALUATE THE SYSTEM OF CONSULTATIONS AND THAT THE EXERCISE SHOULD BE CONTINUED ON THE EXPERIMENTAL BASIS DECIDED UPON BY IDB-X. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AN APPROPRIATE PERIOD OF TIME FOR THIS COULD BE UNTIL THE THIRD GENERAL CONFERENCE WHEN A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF THE EXPERIENCE WITH CONSULTATIONS COULD BE UNDERTAKEN AND DECISIONS MADE TO AS THEIR FUTURE FORM AND CONTENT. ON THE QUESTION OF THE STATUS OF PARTICIPANTS, EACH PARTICIPATING COUNTRY SHOULD BE FREE TO DECIDE WHETHER IT WISHES TO PARTICIPATE THROUGH AN OFFICIAL NATIONAL DELEGATION OR THROUGH A GROUP OF INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS FROM INDUSTRY, LABOR, AND GOVERNMENT. WE ALSO FEEL THAT U.S. DEL SHOULD SUPPORT CONTINUED INVITATIONS TO APPROPRIATE UN AGENCIES, OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NGO'S (PARA 30).

4. FOLLOWUP ACTION: (A) RESOURCES REQUIRED (PARA 37):
THE SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE ASKED TO SPECIFY THE AMOUNT OF

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RESOURCES IT PLANS TO PUT INTO THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE DURING THE BIENNIUM 1978-79. IDB/B/179 GIVES NO INFORMATION ON THIS AND IT IS NOT CLEAR TO WHAT EXTENT THE PROGRAM BUDGET DOCUMENT WILL DO SO.

(B) SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF FOLLOWUP ACTIVITIES (PARA 28 AND ANNEX): THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE BOARD SHOULD CONCERN ITSELF WITH THE SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF RECOMMENDED FOLLOWUP ACTIONS IS A DIFFICULT ONE SINCE AT THIS STAGE WE PRESUMABLY WOULD WISH TO AVOID SHIFTING SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF THE TOPICS IDENTIFIED BY THE CONSULTATION MEETINGS TO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM. HOWEVER, WE FEEL THAT THE BOARD SHOULD NOT BE INDIFFERENT TO THE NATURE OF THE TOPICS RECOMMENDED FOR INCLUSION IN UNIDO'S PROGRAM OF WORK AND THAT ANY VIEWS THE U.S. MAY HAVE CONCERNING THE USEFULNESS, APPROPRIATENESS OR PRIORITY NEED OF PROPOSED AREAS OF FOLLOWUP COULD APPROPRIATELY BE EXPRESSED AT IDB-XI. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE SECRETARIAT MIGHT BE QUERIED WHY IN SOME CASES IT IS POSSIBLE TO SUBMIT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF A PROPOSED WORKING GROUP TO THE BOARD (ANNEX PARA 9), WHILE IN OTHERS (ANNEX PARA 14) THE BOARD IS TOLD ONLY THAT THE

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TERMS OF REFERENCE WILL BE PREPARED BY THE UNIDO INTERNAL TASK FORCE.

(C) PARTICIPATION IN FOLLOWUP WORKING GROUPS (PARA 33):
THE BASIC CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION SHOULD BE THE ROLE AND

INTEREST OF COUNTRIES AS PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS, ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL, AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH INDIVIDUAL EXPERTS CAN MAKE TO THE DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEMS TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE WORKING GROUPS IN ORDER TO MOVE THE DISCUSSIONS ALONG FRUITFUL AND REALISTIC LINES THE BOARD HAVING ESTABLISHED SUCH GENERAL CRITERIA, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAKING THE SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS SHOULD REST PRIMARILY WITH THE SECRETARIAT.

5. FUTURE SECTORAL CONSULTATIONS INDICATED BY THE SECRETARIAT, THE CAPITAL GOODS SECTOR WOULD APPEAR TO BE THE LEAST URGENT FOR ATTENTION.

6. CONSULTATIONS AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL (PARAS 39-41); WE SUGGEST U.S. DEL BE AUTHORIZED TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSITION THAT UNIDO BE PREPARED TO ASSIST REGIONAL BODIES, ORGANIZE REGIONAL SECTORAL CONSULTATIONS, SINCE IN MANY CASES THESE MAY PROVE MORE USEFUL THAN GLOBAL MEETINGS.

7. CONSIDERATION OF ACROSS-THE-BOARD PROBLEMS (PARAS 42-44): REF PARAS RAISE QUESTION OF THE MOST USEFUL APPROACH TO THE CONSIDERATION OF VARIOUS PROBLEMS RAISED DURING SECTORAL CONSULTATIONS, E.G., FINANCING, INVESTMENT GUARANTEES, WHICH ARE COMMON TO DIFFERENT INDUSTRIAL SECTORS. OUR VIEW IS THAT IT WOULD NOT BE PARTICULARLY FRUITFUL FOR UNIDO TO ENGAGE IN ACROSS-THE-BOARD EXAMINATION OF PROBLEMS SUCH AS MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES FOR INDUSTRY. A MORE USEFUL APPROACH WOULD BE TO EXAMINE IN THESE FIELDS THE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS OF PARTICULAR SECTORS, E.G., WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS OF RAISING FINANCING FOR STEEL PROJECTS AND HOW CAN THESE BE OVERCOME. STIBRAVY

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